

C L A I M S

1. A device for adjusting the degree of preload of springs in office chair mechanisms which comprise at least two parts hinged together and elastic means (30) maintaining said parts elastically spaced apart, said device being
5 characterised by comprising:
- a first element (36) provided with at least one inclined surface (40) and coupled to one of the parts (to the elastic means),
 - a second element (42) provided with at least one appendix interacting with the inclined surface (40) of the first element, and coupled to the elastic
10 means (to one of the parts),
 - means (46, 48) for inducing axial rotation of one of said elements,
 - means (54, 56) for blocking the rotation of the other element.
2. A device as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the appendix consists of an inclined surface (44).
- 15 3. A device as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the inclined surfaces of the two elements (36, 42) extend helically.
4. A device as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the rotation inducing means consist of a linkage perpendicular to the axis of rotation.
5. A device as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the rotation
20 inducing means consist of a worm (48) engaging a toothing (46) provided on one element.
6. A device as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the rotation inducing means consist of a pinion engaging a ring gear provided on one element.